

## URGE LEGISLATION TO STOP RAIL STRIKES

National Council of Chamber of Commerce Discusses Plan for New Law.

(Continued from First Page.)

tion and prevention of railroad strikes, and it is one of numerous symptoms that the railroad and labor problem is once more sticking up before the nation in ugly fashion.

Other railroad problems, including Federal control as opposed to the present method of control, are also prominent. But how to prevent public utilities being tied up and to prevent the public suffering while employees and employers thresh out their differences is the big thing before the meeting.

**Emphasizes Importance.** President R. Goodwin Rhett, of the Chamber of Commerce, in opening the meeting today, emphasized the importance of railroad problems before the country. As to preventing public utilities being tied up, he said there were four suggestions already before the chamber.

They include the Canadian plan of the publicity plan, the method of special contracts between railroads and public utilities and their employees, and Government wage-fixing. President Henry R. Towne, of New York, urged the plan of a contractual relation between the plan of railroads and other utilities.

**Power Is Unquestioned.** "The commerce clause of the Constitution knows no limitations," Judge Adamson said. "There is no doubt about Congress having the power to control all operations of railroads. It passed first a law limiting railroad work to forty hours, then the sixteen-hour law, then a law limiting a day's work to thirteen, and even nine hours for some classes of work. The present law has been misinterpreted widely. If the two classes of railroad men fight, Congress will fix their rights and duties in the interest of the people."

**Opposed to Ownership.** Judge Adamson said he is unalterably opposed to government ownership as a solution of the public utility problem. "Government ownership would put the country in the hands of the railroads," he said. "The roads are capitalized at \$25,000,000,000. There isn't that much money in the world. Bonds would be issued. The only men who could buy them would be the present owners of the railroads. They also are the men the country would have to employ to run the railroads. They would constitute the most powerful political oligarchy that ever was on the face of the earth. We shall never reach a state where Government ownership will be necessary."

If necessary, the joint Congressional committee, which is to begin hearings shortly, will not be consulted by Congress as to legislation, Judge Adamson said. Congress, he said, is in a position if it wants to pass laws before the committee ends its hearings. This afternoon there will be other speakers, including Alfred P. Thom, general counsel of the railway executives' advisory committee, and Harry A. Wheeler, chairman of the committee of the chamber on the railway situation.

A representative of the railway brotherhoods was invited through a letter to the four brotherhoods, but none appeared.

**Employees Unaffected.** Dr. Van Hise pointed out that up to this time public regulation had not affected the employees of the railroads, and they were unregulated. But now that the organizations are united and the welfare of great sections of the country can be jeopardized by strikes, the public interest rises paramount to all others.

"If the men have injustices," declared Dr. Van Hise, "they must see to it that they find some other way to remedy those injustices rather than by a general strike which will bring suffering and disaster to the nation."

He went over in detail the events leading up to passage of the Adamson law. He was chairman of the Board of Arbitration in the great Eastern railroad controversy of 1912. He emphasized the fact that it would take time and care to find out which side was justified in the contention over the eight-hour standard. He declared he would want three or four months' time to investigate with a force of experts and then could not feel certain.

**Law Rushed Through.** The inference of his statements about the difficulty of getting at the facts was that the Adamson law was jammed through without any reference to the facts, leaving the facts to be determined later.

But while that is going on, he emphasized, the public has to foot the bill and bear the burden. "It is unfortunate," he said, "to have this burden placed on the public until it has been found out whether it is reasonable for the public to pay the bill."

**Condemned Failure.** He condemned failure to arbitrate the dispute, saying that if the public interest was paramount, then the men were placing their own selfish interest superior to the entire interest of the nation. If they strike, "whether the pending election had anything to do with what occurred, you are just as able to judge as I," said the speaker. "Four hundred thousand men held up the governmental power of the United States and brought on this intolerable situation which made my cheek burn with shame. Now we are in the ignominious position that the same thing may be repeated indefinitely."

**"Congress Won't Wait."** Congressman Adamson, chairman of the House Committee on Interstate Commerce, in a speech to the council, predicted Congress would not wait on investigations to deal with the railroad wage problem. He said it would go ahead and solve the problems before it. That the eight-hour law is "absolutely constitutional" was the opinion of Judge Adamson.

As to a plan of regulating wages by governmental action, through a wage commission or kindred action, Judge Adamson said the railroads would not consent to this because the pay of high officials of the roads would be reduced. He declared Government ownership would not work. As for Federal control instead of the present dual control by Federal and State power, he said this was impossible without amendment of the Constitution.

**Crisis Appears Near.** Signs of war over the Adamson law and grave complications over the railroad labor problem, as well as other railroad problems, loomed large today. That an acute crisis in the relations of the railroads and their employees and the relations of both to the public is not far ahead is the view which is gaining ground rapidly in Washington and in the great financial centers of the country.

Meantime, there are signs that the railroad capital and labor controversy is steadily growing in gravity. President Wilson may feel constrained to call further conferences of railroad managers and brotherhood heads to avert trouble.

The heads of the four brotherhoods are expected to reach Washington tomorrow or by Monday at latest. They are preparing to go before the Newlands committee. They will also confer with the President, and while not ostensibly to talk over the Adamson law, it will be brought up. Furthermore, there are strong signs that a movement is on to bring about a close concert of action between the brotherhoods and the American Federation of Labor. The brotherhood heads will address the convention of the A. F. of L. at Baltimore Monday or Tuesday. Dispatches from Baltimore indicate the federation is getting ready to stand back of the train-

men. Talk of a universal eight-hour day movement for labor in this country is heard in the federation convention. While the railroad employees are getting ready seemingly to defy the roads and the public if the Adamson law is not put into effect, the railroads are going ahead to fight in the courts, and the National Founders' Association in New York has decided to back up the road in fighting the Adamson measure.

**Attracts Attention.** The growing complication of troublesomeness and even menacing railroad problems facing the nation is attracting increasing attention by members of Senate and House, who are beginning to reach Washington. It is certain Congress will hear much of it this winter.

The fact the State railroad commissions now assembled here, are battling against a greater measure of Federal control and the roads are seeking more Federal control and less State authority, is an important phase of railroad matters.

**Held Conferences.** The Department of Justice heads have had numerous conferences lately over the efforts of the roads to enjoin the Adamson law. It is learned that they are considering the case as possible in order to carry one of the suits to the Supreme Court with the least possible delay.

Administration officials are plainly worried over the outlook. The President is expected to advise the brotherhood heads to refrain from blocking the railroads of the country until the courts can have time to thrash out the legal controversy and pass on the constitutionality of the new law.

**AGED MEN SETTLE ELECTION WITH RACE.** Republican Octogenarian Beats Youth of Seventy-three.

PITTMAN, N. J., Nov. 17.—Waiting for an official count to decide definitely the Presidential contest was too tedious for members of the "base-burner stove congress," in this neck of the woods, and so two of its hardy old campaigners settled rival political issues with a foot race.

The Republicans pinned their hopes on Uncle Joe James, eighty years old, while the Democrats backed Uncle Stan Hurst, seventy-three years old, a dyed-in-the-wool party man. Uncle Jim Ledden, seventy-three years old, was the starter, and Uncle Jerry Simpkins, seventy years old, held the stake—two silver dollars.

Uncle Joe won. The race was an eighth of a mile.

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Enjoy life! Your system is filled with an accumulation of bile and bowel poison which keeps you bilious, head-

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**8-HOUR COMMISSION TO MEET THURSDAY**  
Session Will Be Held in New York—Courts May Delay Its Work.

Should the courts grant the appeal of railroads to enjoin enforcement of the Adamson eight-hour law, the work of the commission appointed to investigate its application to railroad operation will be temporarily held up.

General Goethals, chairman of the investigating commission, said today, Goethals left here this afternoon for New York, where he will meet other members of the commission next Thursday.

The work of investigators up to January 1, when the law is designed to go into effect, will be informal. Following that date its action will be governed by decision of the courts in pending suits.

Dr. O. M. Lorenze, assistant statistician of the Interstate Commerce Commission, today was chosen secretary of the "eight-hour commission."

A new angle in the fight of the railroads was presented to Department of Justice officials today when it was learned that in suits filed at Milwaukee, plea is made to enjoin railroad employees from collecting wages under the law. In the absence from the city of Assistant Attorney General Underwood, who is directing the work of the government in the case, other officials would make no comment as to how the department would meet the new phase of the case.

**HUGHES UNWITTINGLY POSTPONES A FEAST**  
Tumulty Banquet to Correspondents Is Held Up.

Charles Evans Hughes, by delaying his message of congratulation to President Wilson, is postponing inadvertently an epicurean feast for newspaper correspondents here, the like of which Lucullus himself seldom set about.

Secretary Tumulty has promised it aboard the Presidential yacht Mayflower in honor of his "chief's" victory. But, like the President, he is postponing any promiscuous celebrating until after the Republican candidate is heard from.

**LABOR FEDERATION TO AID NEWSPAPERS**  
Convention in Baltimore Will Urge Federal Probe of Paper Prices.

BALTIMORE, Nov. 17.—While the American Federation of Labor, in annual convention, sat in the Garden Theater and listened to the reading of resolutions this morning, a tremendous undercurrent of interest went toward the action of the big railroads in fighting the Adamson law, and how such action would affect organized labor.

Speculation ran high as to what the representatives of the Big Four of the railroad employees would say when they addressed the convention the first of next week.

The convention is getting right down to hard pan these days, and labor is working hard to benefit the workingmen.

President Gompers called the delegates to order and the reports of committees had precedence in order of business.

The convention, in all probability, will launch a movement to help the newspapers throughout the country at one of its early sessions. This help, naturally, will be indirect, as the first rank of the federation is to help its own members. And it is all over the high cost of the paper on which the daily news is printed.

The cost of news print paper, it is pointed out, has advanced in price since the first of the year from 100 per cent to, in some instances, nearly 300 per cent.

**To Urge Federal Probe.** This condition has brought about a reduction in the number of employees in departments under the jurisdiction of the international unions, represented in the Allied Printing Trades Association and the American Federation of Labor is asked to urge an immediate and thorough investigation by the Department of Justice, through Federal grand juries in the larger cities in the United States, for the purpose of obtaining evidence of the illegal conspiracies which are believed to exist in the paper trade.

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Note: Another prominent Physician to whom the above article was submitted, said: "Bon-Opto is a very remarkable remedy. Its constituent ingredients are well known to eminent eye specialists and widely prescribed by them. The manufacturers guarantee it to be a safe and effective remedy. I feel sure in many instances or refund the money. It can be obtained from any good druggist and is one of the very few preparations I feel should be kept on hand for regular use in almost every family." It is sold in Washington by O'Donnell and other druggists.—Adv.

**Doctor Tells How to Strengthen Eyesight 50 per cent In One Week's Time In Many Instances**

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